

Leaflet

Public & Private Workers of Canada
— Est. 1964 —



A Fight Worth Fighting

**2019
Autumn/
Winter
Issue**

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Signed articles appearing in the Leaflet express the views and opinions of the authors. They do not form local or national policies or procedures. We welcome your feedback, opinions and inquiries.

The Leaflet attempts to give coverage to all locals, and pertinent material will be held for the future if the space is unavailable in the current issue.

LETTER

From the Editor

LETTERS

Hello All,

Another season rolls on and that brings more experience for myself. We have begun to step up the social media pages beginning with the twitter account @PPWCunion and our Facebook page. Times are hard for a lot of our brothers and sisters right now and we wanted to focus on promoting the strength of the union in our recent posts. Christina from the National office and I will be attending a conference with the Canadian Association of Labour Media. From this conference, our goal is to further understand how to use social media as an ally and begin to create a strategy on what and when to post. This quarter's leaflet was completed with a lot of effort by Christina Nelson as usual and I need to thank her for her contributions every time this Leaflet is released. With tough times around my job at Ladysmith Sawmill, it has made for a strange few months, but moving forward I'm hoping that we can continue to spread some more positive stories on our social media soon. I hope that our brothers and sisters who are struggling through this tough time can get back to work sooner than later and resume the lives that we all worked so hard to achieve. That is when our social media would love to showcase stories of our members and continue the conversation of how proud we are to be in the PPWC. Happy Holidays to everyone out there and we hope to hear some better news as the year closes out.

In Solidarity,

Chris Faber
National Communications Officer



To All PPWC Members,

After being contacted last December, the PPWC embarked on a bold path to unionize the supervisors and other associated staff at Howe Sound Pulp and Paper. Our application was challenged by Paper Excellence and after a 6-month long hearing, the Labour Board was tasked with putting out a decision.

This landmark decision was in our favour so on Monday, December 9, 2019 at 11:00 a.m. the sealed ballots cast the year before were counted. The result was in our favour yet again, with the vote count being 25 for and 5 against joining the union. The PPWC is proud to welcome the newest members to our Union.

In Solidarity,

Gary Fiege
National President

World Vision®
PROUD SUPPORTER

Dear Public and Private Workers of Canada,

Thank you for the generous support you have been giving to Sala Evance. You're helping provide Sala, her family and the whole community with life-changing fundamentals, such as access to quality education, essential healthcare, safe water, and nutritious food. It gives them the opportunity for a brighter future.

We are grateful for your partnership in improving the lives of many.

Warmest Regards,

Kathryn Goddard
Vice-President, Products and Channels



NATIONAL PRESIDENT

There have been a fraction of the fires in BC this year compared to the last two summers. Although there may not have been wildfires burning this summer, the industry as a whole is burning up.

It seems like such a long time ago that I reported to you. So much has gone on that it boggles my mind that we have been able to cope as well as we have. My time during the summer was spent running back and forth to Mackenzie as well 100 Mile House as both our certifications in these communities experienced indefinite curtailments.

Forestry

Well, where do I start...?

It is as you all are aware, it is a very tough time for our members. During this summer we have seen both Mackenzie and 100 Mile House indefinitely shuttered as well members of Local 2 in Crofton have faced curtailment, Local 8's Ladysmith, Value Added, and Long Ho mills have seen down time due to the continuing USW strike and maintenance. Local 9 has seen both of its pulp mills take downtime.

I'll try to be as chronological as possible, bearing in mind that a lot has happened in a short period of time.

In late June, I attended Local 18's protocol meeting in Mackenzie to support the local as they entered into contract talks with Canfor. Before meeting with the Local and company, I did 5 interviews for the CBC (Early Edition, On the Island, Daybreak Kamloops, Daybreak South and Daybreak North). I tried to be realistic with my thoughts and words painting a picture as accurately as possible while also showing we cared for our affected members and the communities our locals reside in.

The protocol meeting went well and Peter Merkley did a proper job of representing the Local. We agreed to put off negotiations while the mill was shuttered and until the USW contract was settled and both sides could collect thoughts. We set dates of late July for agenda exchanges.

On June 26th, Chuck Leblanc and I drove down to 100 Mile House to meet with the members on site, after they were told their last day of operation would be early August. We met with the company briefly to address equipment removal, the plan of arrangement (section 54) (meeting set for July 17th), skeleton

crew, severance, vacation pay outs, and job openings in other Norbord sites.

While there, Chuck and I met with Donna Burnett, MLA for the Southern Caribou region. She spouted the regular Liberal rhetoric. She was searching for information and quite desperate to take shots at the NDP.

In early July, I set up a meeting with Minister Donaldson in Victoria. We had representation from all the pulp locals as well Local 9's Norbord was represented by Thomas Schmid. We invited Unifor's Vince Lukacs and Jon Hawkins to attend with us as their concerns mimicked our own.

We used this opportunity to ensure the minister understood the gravity of the situation of a diminishing fibre basket in relation to our big pulp mills. We informed him that losing 100 to 200 jobs in a community was hard enough, but that if one of our pulp mills shut down, we potentially could lose 500 or more jobs.

The minister spoke of the recently passed Bill 22 as a means to ensure more fibre to our mills through lower waste thresholds and higher fees for log exports. He further spoke of the government's plans to ensure crisis teams are available to assist workers in transitioning to new careers. Not news we wanted to hear, but looking at the reality of the situation I can see why.

Out of this meeting, I put pen to paper and sent a letter to the Minister addressing promises made during the election campaign in regards to forest inventories as well the curbing of log exports. A few weeks ago, we received a reply from the Ministry attempting to answer our questions. There is no doubt that work is being done, but is or will it ever be enough? Time will tell.

On July 8th, I met with Jens Whiting of the Sierra Club and we co-wrote an article published in the Times Columnist regarding using science-based learnings from the Great Bear Rainforest in all of Coastal Forestry. We also touched base on letting trees grow longer, increasing biodiversity.

On July 17th, Todd Smith and I drove to 100 Mile House to meet with Local 9 and management and get answers to our questions regarding the curtailment. For the most part, we didn't get the answers we needed. However, the company did give us an indication of what was required prior to them restarting the mill; pricing improvements for the orientated strand board or OSB they produce as well as affordable renewable licences. Something that is not in the cards as all the renewable tenure is spoken for.

The company spoke that the government has been less than forthcoming with help. A claim that was later rebutted by John Allan (Deputy Forest Minister) who said that fibre had been made available to Norbord from various non-renewable licences and from the Elephant Hill fire.

Further discussions took place around care and control of the shuttered plant, other opportunities within Norbord, pension questions, benefits, recall rights as well as outstanding grievances.

Later we attended the general membership where frustration and anger at the company's actions or inactions was prevalent. Chuck and Local 9 have been great in trying to get the answers needed. It was another sad day as the leader of this organization, I feel everyone's angst and it bothers me immensely.

Todd and I attended lunch with Deputy Minister John Allan just after the indefinite curtailment of Local 18 was announced that day by Canfor. We discussed issues at hand and as I've grown to understand, John is a tell it like it is, no bull shit guy.

We discussed having ongoing weekly telephone calls for a two-way communication process that allows the government to fill us in on their plans while we have an opportunity to give them feed-back on our own ideas. These calls have been productive in my opinion mostly for the free-flowing discussions, but also for the ability of our local's leadership to have a voice moving forward. We may not like the pace that some of the changes are taking but I feel that we are moving in the right direction, albeit slowly. We have never in my time had such an open relationship with government.

Just before leaving on holidays, I attended the Interior Forest Revitalization program in Mackenzie. Although everyone was engaged in the process, I and others thought that it was a process largely determined already, but that it was there to make us feel involved. There may be a few new items brought up for consideration, but mostly government has been engaged with all the players for some time now. I brought up a few of the issues as we see them, one being that too much tenure is in the hands of too few players.


Again, we showed our support for the beleaguered Local 18.

Local 18's general membership meeting was the following week so I stopped in on my vacation to attend. There was a large contingent of members at the hall when I arrived. Peter and the executive were prepared and ran a good meeting. They approved items that were needed to keep the local running while curtailed.

On August 8th, I was again in attendance at Mackenzie. This time meeting with the government. Discussions revolved around efforts to keep the industry alive in Mackenzie. With both Conifex and Local 18 down, Mackenzie was in peril of losing its pulp mill. Larry Pederson has come out of retirement to help steer government through this crisis. He spoke to legislative changes that will be forthcoming this fall, Bill 22 issues around timber swapping and waste thresholds. We were also told that Canfor is not working with government, but that Paper Excellence and Conifex were.

Peter Merkley, Paul Smith and I met with Canfor to go over issues such as the section 54 grievance, retro pay, vacation pay outs, transporter issues, benefits, apprentices, retirement incentives/issues and winterization.

We then attended a planning session for the Mackenzie Matters Rally planned for August 22nd. Vince Lukacs, Peter and I were able to give valuable input into the implementation of action items such as speakers, funding, logistics etc. Once the date was solidified, we let our locals know and again, I was humbled by the support shown. Special thanks to Local 9 for

<div> Madison's Weekly Softwood Lumber Movers & Shakers  </div>										
<div> June 17, 2019 www.madisonreport.com </div>										
Prices in US dollars per 1,000 lbs (net F 08 mil)	This Week	Last Week	Change \$	% Trend	Month Ago	Change \$	% Trend	Year Ago	Change \$	% Trend
WSPF KD R/L 2x4	376	298	+78	+26.2% ▲	332	+44	+13.3% ▲	652	-776	-42% ▼
WSPF KD R/L 2x6	338	286	+52	+18.2% ▲	310	+28	+9.0% ▲	552	-214	-39% ▼
SYD KD R/L East Side 2x4	359	361	-2	-0.6% ▼	395	-36	-9.1% ▼	606	-247	-41% ▼
SYD KD R/L East Side 2x6	249	257	-8	-3.1% ▼	296	-47	-15.9% ▼	525	-276	-53% ▼
ESPF KD R/L 2x4	395	385	+10	+2.6% ▲	410	-15	-3.7% ▼	720	-325	-45% ▼
WSPF KD PET 2x4 Stud	260	250	+10	+4.0% ▲	265	-5	-1.9% ▼	445	-185	-42% ▼
WSPF KD PET 2x6 Stud	242	232	+10	+4.3% ▲	258	-16	-6.2% ▼	378	-136	-36% ▼
Douglas Fir Green R/L 2x4	302	300	+2	+0.7% ▲	317	-15	-4.7% ▼	595	-293	-49% ▼
Douglas Fir Green R/L 2x10	380	375	+5	+1.3% ▲	363	+17	+4.7% ▲	565	-185	-33% ▼
ESPF KD 2x4 8ft Stud	335	330	+5	+1.5% ▲	345	-10	-2.9% ▼	545	-210	-39% ▼
OSB Ontario 7/16" (CDNS/msf)	247	255	-8	-3.1% ▼	255	-8	-3.1% ▼	570	-323	-57% ▼
CSPLYwood Toronto 3/8" (CDNS/msf)	418	440	-22	-5.0% ▼	433	-15	-3.5% ▼	670	-252	-38% ▼

We closely follow the price of lumber to make sure we put pressure on corporations.

offering rides and Local 26 for its financial support.

On August 14th, Rod Gallant, Adrian Soldera and I met with Western Forest Products at their Nanaimo office to look at the fibre situation for Local 8's Ladysmith sawmill. As Western had recently lost its appeal to the LRB in regards to USW's hot edict on boomed logs, we knew it would be hard to continue to run. Paper Excellence had stepped up to the plate and supplied some logs in exchange for chips, but that wood was running out. Western had recently bought some booms of fir down to 4" tops (mill design was for hemlock 5" tops) and the guys busted their proverbial butts to make it work, right down to production records. They have proven their respective right to run; however, the end was in sight as all avenues had been exhausted (Western cannot block export because they export). So even while wood is exported from this Province, our members are on EI again because of the USW/Western strike and Westerns export activities. During this meeting, Rod informed a surprised HR group that our members at Chemanius Value Added division announced that they too were running out of wood. It will be some time after the strike for any wood to be made available to either of these two mills.

On to the beautiful town of Mackenzie one more time! In the morning, we met with Minister Doug Donaldson at the forestry offices. In attendance was union leaders, forestry staff, town officials, and select invitees. On August 22nd, in a catch 22 the provincial government lamented Bill 22. In all seriousness, Doug spoke to the group of the government's action items and relayed the work being done to get Conifex back up and running as well securing some fibre for Paper Excellence. Everyone had ample time to address the Minister with her/his concerns.

He talked specifically of the high-level policy decision to be announced soon. Which if required, will be followed up with legislation to force this out. The aim being to stabilize the situation.

Further discussion was had on the Bill 22 test for tenure swap. Time is of the essence. It is bad enough that the mill is down; however, so are all the logging contractors. While the tenure swap is being debated, workers are suffering. The community is further suffering.

In response, the government needs to get this done right; no deal is better than a bad deal. North Thompson First Nations are not happy with the situation as well, citing lack of proper meaningful discussion.

At noon that day, an assembled group approaching 1,000



marched from the forestry offices through the streets of Mackenzie supported along the way by workers and bystanders pledging their allegiance to the movement. The march culminated at the community centre where a stage was erected. Over the next few hours, there were speakers including Minister Doug Donaldson, Liberal MLA's, MP, the Mayor of Mackenzie; Joan Atkinson, mayors from Fort Saint John, Dawson Creek, and union leaders including Todd Smith and myself. Passion was felt throughout the crowd.

I was both honoured and proud to represent not only the PPWC National, but also to speak the words of Peter Merkley as he was away working and could not attend. I was especially thrilled that at the end of my speech I received a standing ovation. Upon reflection, I was the last speaker and everyone was just getting up to leave.

Mackenzie should be proud of the mountain of work to pull this off in the time frame they did. It is this spirit, work ethic, and commitment to each other that will go a long way in diversifying the economy and fixing the mess they now face. Mackenzie Does Matter.

In early September, I met with Stephen Mackie of Canfor to introduce myself and open dialogue so as to help facilitate the reopening of Mackenzie Sawmill. I explained it was discouraging to hear they are not working with government like Conifex and Paper Excellence are. He explained the lack of progress there on being focused in multiple locations, including the tenure swap with Interfor. We discussed the term 'indefinite' in relation to the curtailment. That being, he believes there will be a Canfor mill in Mackenzie, just that it may not be what is there now. Economics will ultimately drive their decisions. If they can make money consistently for the long term they will run, that is the plan. Put costs onto others so as to reap the benefits.

We discussed the section 54 requirements and both agreed we will await the anticipated Tolko decision of the LRB. As I am writing this report, there has been no decision from the Labour Board.

Since the end of July, our weekly calls to John Allan, Chris Stag, Larry Pederson and our locals designate have progressed nicely. It appears to be a two-way communication aimed at giving us a heads up to what we are facing, as well letting government know that what we are hearing needs to be improved on. These calls started at ground zero to which John Allan commented "this is forestry 101". It was by design,

to bring all on the calls along together. A few weeks back, we stumped our esteemed hosts. I find my learnings to be incredible and continue to amaze myself by how little I really knew just a few short months ago.

Also in the beginning of September, Rod Gallant, Al Delcourt, Arnie Bercov and I met with Domenico Iannidinardo of Mosaic (formerly TimberWest and Island Timber). Mosaic was upset at our Op-Ed with the Sierra Club. Domenico wanted to understand our position on forestry, which I was happy to oblige. He then explained at a high level the work his company is doing on carbon sequestering, land management, First Nations, etc. He asked if we would like to get together in late October to further learn of their efforts in some of our areas of concern. I believe understanding comes from communication and we need to keep lines open during these tumultuous times.

On Monday, September 9th, I met with Ravi Kahlon of the NDP whose mandate letter speaks to community engagement. It was a good meeting where he listened to our concerns as I presented them. He spoke of the items his government is working on. I spoke of changing the labour code to define "indefinite". He pointed us to Harry Bains for that piece, but said it made sense under the circumstance and would himself follow up.

On Tuesday, September 17th, the provincial government announced 69 million in funding to help displaced forestry workers, with 40 million being for retirement bridging incentives. This is something we heard loud and clear at the 100 Mile House general membership meeting and have been



advocating for ever since. Further money is earmarked for Community Placement offices in the affected towns. The money would also be used for retraining and other forest related items like fire proofing communities or thinning projects to increase the yield of the forest. This program will help; however, as with all things in life, the devil will be in the details and we continue to work with the government to ensure that our laid off members have access to these resources. Finding ways to keep these mills running is our first priority but in the absence of that, we need to look after the people and communities they live in. This money will go a long way in easing some of our members concerns both in Mackenzie and 100 Mile House. This well-intentioned program has been changed and adapted a few times since inception as it was rolled out in haste. This has caused concern for some of our members trying to access the program. We are still working with Government (both the Ministry of Labour and Forestry) in trying to get these issues straightened out in a timely manner.

Todd Smith and I met with COFI's (BC Council of Forest Industries) Susan Yurkovich, in an effort to understand and conceivably work with them on items identified in their recently published report on forestry that can be viewed here:

https://www.cofi.org/wp-content/uploads/COFI_APathForward_2.pdf

I believe that many of the 60 items identified mimic what we have been saying for years. We are committed to finding a top ten list and see what we can work on together, for we have a better chance at success if we do just that.

We continue to meet with industry in the hopes to mitigate any further closures of our plants. I worry with all the retraction in our industry that we may lose one of our pulp mills. Unifor is preparing for the same end as their mill in Quesnel faces an uncertain future in an area that has seen its Annual Allowable Cut decline by 40% as the pine beetle killed trees have been harvested or no longer have enough value to be processed.

On October 17th, I met with Local 2 and other Paper Excellence Locals at a Presidents council meeting. Fibre availability was the topic at hand as well discussions took place on power agreements, the continuing USW strike, curtailments, markets, and future plans. Unifor locals wanted an opportunity to address shortfalls in their Collective Agreements (2 tier training wage) whereas Local 2 wanted to address jurisdictional items such as laid off Unifor members working in our jurisdiction and not being compensated as per our agreement.

Back in April of this year, Premier Horgan wrote a letter to all the CEO's asking them to lead coalition talks with community stakeholders. Those being unions, mayors, companies, First Nations and contractors. The aim of these coalitions was to try and get consensus on ideas that would help our industry. The government wanted us to work together to find solutions and present them jointly to government. Now that the industry is in complete disarray, does this finally happen. I cannot help, but wonder what could have been averted had we in fact started these talks back in late April.

I was asked to participate in both the Mackenzie Timber Supply Area (TSA) Coalition and East Kootenay, TSA. The Mackenzie TSA Coalition is ready to put out its report shortly and the Kootenay TSA Coalition is in consultation with interested parties.

I have and continue to work closely with Local 8 as we try to get our certifications fibre-ed up so as to be able to run. Rod Gallant and I met with the USW to express our concerns as well as trying to see if any of our wood was behind their hot edict booms.

Next, we met with Western Forest Products to again try and get our members back to work. On to Mosaic and, yet again we are trying to be creative with the available wood on the market and get our mills running again. Rest assured that Local 8 and the National are doing everything we can to lessen the damage as the labour unrest continues.

We collectively will get through the mess we find ourselves all too close to. It will take dedication to the cause, at times patience, other times haste. We will educate ourselves as this

is key to us making the right choices or decisions. We have an opportunity to help fix forestry for generations to come...if we do it right!

I would like to give a big thank you to Todd Smith for all of the hard work he has dedicated to revamping the Shop Steward's Course.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone in our PPWC family a very Merry Christmas with health and prosperity into the New Year.

I acknowledge the financial burden and pain a lot of our laid off members are going through, which is made all the more difficult this time of year. I want to wish them an end to this forestry crisis. Although it may not help today, know that we are doing everything we can to get you back to work, which will be the best wish we can help to fulfil.

Sincerely,

Gary Fiege,
National President

UPCOMING EVENTS

FEBRUARY 24 & 25

*Joint Safety Conference
Coast Coal Harbour
Hotel, Vancouver, B.C*

FEBRUARY 26 - 28

*PPWC Safety Conference
Chateau Granville Hotel,
Vancouver, B.C.*

MARCH 3

*Mercer Benefits Training
Chateau Granville Hotel,
Vancouver, B.C.*

MARCH 4 & 5

*Health & Welfare
Conference
Chateau Granville Hotel,
Vancouver, B.C.*

MARCH 9 & 10

*Labour School
Chateau Granville Hotel,
Vancouver, B.C.*

MARCH 9 & 10

*N.E.B. Meeting
National Office,
Vancouver, B.C.*

MARCH 10

*Resolutions Committee
Meeting
Chateau Granville Hotel
Vancouver, B.C.*

MARCH 11 - 13

*58th Annual Convention
Chateau Granville Hotel
Vancouver, B.C.*

NATIONAL 1ST VICE-PRESIDENT

Kootenays Road Trip: Through the Eyes of a City Boy

I recently had the pleasure of teaching two Shop Stewards Courses for Local 1 and 26 in Castlegar as well as Local 15 in Kimberley. Keeping the infamous Castlegar Airport in mind, I decided to trek my way by rental car. As it turned out, this was a great idea. I have had many a drive through Keremeos to Penticton, but I had never ventured that far east. Well, in actuality the highway resembles a Richter scale travelling north and south. During the drive, I watched the surreal terrain change and was in awe of the majestic mountains. At times, the roadway drastically contoured the decided pathway through

our massively elevated interior. These pathways were also matched by rivers, open valleys, lakes, trees, and wild game. I kept thinking what a beautiful province we live in.

After traveling beyond Keremeos, I came upon Osoyoos. It felt as if I was going through the parting of the lakes. I would

soon follow along the Crowsnest Highway to Rock Creek and come across the Petro-Canada Station with their deli quality sandwiches. Next came Midway that is true to its name and even a Christina Lake, which I'm sure is named after our office Christina or it should have been. Then came the beautiful town of Castlegar, followed by the passing of Salmo which looks like the town missed the highway. As Maxwell Smart would say, 'missed it by that much'. I came across some pretty strange looking big birds walking across the road around there.

I passed Lost Mountain and the Hidden Fairy

Forest, which I'm not quite sure they are lost or hidden as it's right there on the map. Next came the vast orchard valley of Creston and we can't forget about Yahk, B.C. The business names 'Two Scoop Steve's' and 'Two Pump Paul's' begged the question; who are these straight shooters? My final destination was Kimberley. What a picturesque little town, although the dogs look a lot different than what I'm used to.



The canines of Kimberley.

It truly was a great trip, but even more encouraging was the Shop Stewards Courses.

Local 1 and 26 were gracious hosts. Castlegar supplied eager learners that were fully engaged with me throughout the training. I would like to thank Geary Stubbs for all his help organizing the course, Kelly Johnson for opening up the first day and Neil Bermel for his help on day two. My thanks also goes out to Local 15 in Kimberley. Tim Strachan and Leighton Wilson arranged an educational mill tour at Skookumchuck which we followed with a two day Shop Stewards Course. I



Leighton Wilson and Kim Grant in the oilers room at Skookumchuck Pulp.

was again greeted by eager students with a full commitment to the course.

I felt it was a successful week and I am lucky to have experienced the spectacular places that our members live in.

In Solidarity,

Todd Smith

National
1st Vice-
President



Students at the Shop Steward Training at Local 15

of Skookumchuck Pulp



Tour of Skookumchuck Pulp

Shop Stewards Are the Cornerstone of the Union and for Good Reason!

SHOP STEWARDS CORNER

What are the Shop Stewards' main objectives?

Build the union

Defend the Collective Agreement

Represent and defend labour laws and the rights of all workers

Council members that are in need of help; guiding members to EFAP, understanding and defending special accommodations are just a couple of examples.

Defending the right to a safe work place.

Working with fellow Stewards, safety representatives and the local's executive to help membership understand the function of their local by educating members, updating and understanding the needs, the wants and the times at hand.

Encouraging participation (a unions strength is an educated membership). The word "union" is only a word without the memberships' participation, understanding and solidarity.

The Shop Steward is an educator, a troubleshooter, defender, debater, listener, note taker, advocate and organizer to name a few. The Steward is the first line of defense to balance Capitals' immense power. We do that with the backing of labour laws, safety regulations, human rights guidelines and Collective Agreements.

A good Steward does not need to know everything, rather they need to know how to find the information and get back to the member with the answer.

These are some of the things we try to teach new Stewards in our National Stewards Training Program. We the National love to travel to the Locals' and put on the training. We often learn as much from the participants as they do from us.

If you are interested in becoming a Steward please contact your local executive.

A special thanks to Gary for his ideas, content and continued support.

In Solidarity,

Todd Smith
National 1st Vice-President

LOCALS

LOCAL 1 Castlegar, B.C.

Mercer is a global forest products manufacturer and a leader among forest producers in pursuing full bio refining. Mercer has invested in the generation of green energy and bio-extractives. Celgar is one of Mercer's pulp producers situated in the West Kootenays bordering the Columbia River in Castlegar. The Celgar Pulp mill produces over 443,000 tons of pulp, 100MW of electrically generated power and is one of the largest biomass power plants in Canada. The mill has been around for over 50 years and has had numerous owners and modernization upgrades. Celgar is one of the West Kootenays largest employers, more than 400 people, 300 of whom are PPWC members. The mill brings in 600 to 900 tradespeople, contractors, equipment specialists for yearly maintenance and shutdowns. This generates a significant amount of the community's revenue.

Castlegar is the home of Local 1, Private and Public Workers of Canada. The PPWC is a democratic union that includes thousands of workers throughout the B.C province. Our local union was one of the very first of the PPWC founded in 1963, standing up for workers' rights, environmental sustainability and social justice for all Canadians. Local 1 is a proud member of the CCU and numerous affiliations.

The summer in Castlegar was significantly better, compared to the previous year of smoke from wild fires surrounding the mill. Electrical storms brought rain this summer that provided great visual shows, but gave the mill reason to island off the grid on many occasions. The relief from these storms was finally showing some improved power generation when an untimely electrical strike knocked down the plant. The mill was slow to get back up and running.

Celgar's management and Board of Directors are looking ahead. Celgar has the potential to transform its business from a pulp primary, commodity business into a multi-product bio refinery business that could be a global leader in innovative, environmentally friendly bio-based products. Stage 1 investment in storage tanks and process upgrades will stabilize the mill producing additional electricity and pulp production. With the mill now set up for future projects and investment, there will be stage 2; the potential for a Biomass Gasifier. This

will convert bark and other forest waste into renewable bio-gas, replacing natural gas. Stage 3 would see a bio-materials plant producing lignin glues, cellulose nano-fibers and compostable bio-plastics.

This investment would provide 50 high paying long term jobs in the Kootenays, lower CO2 emissions by 187,000 tons annually and make better use of full forest utilization. The waste and mess of unharvested fibre left in burn piles and beetle kill would be used.

Newer mills outside of North America have already started to make use of this technology and Celgar Pulp Mill could be the first to install an industrial scale gasifier on this continent.

In Solidarity,

Larry Walker
Local 1 NEB Member

Local 15 Kimberley, B.C.

The Shop Stewards at Safety Investigations Arbitration was settled the night before the lawyers were to arrive in Kimberley. Will Clements did his usual outstanding work and convinced the Company lawyer to agree to acceptable wording and \$1,500.00 to the JOH&S Committee for training.

We are still awaiting the Mill Manager's reply to our letter sent regarding the Company's responses from the last Third Stage. The HR Manager stated at our last weekly meeting that they are close to answering. We also covered 8 hour workers not being allowed to bank OT, the Stack Testing procedures, ERC leadership, as well as employees being called in on vacation, and members having trouble with Desjardins. We will be seeking legal opinions on four grievances

The new shower building is slated to open in early November. With the new facilities comes a card lock system and the Standing Committee will try to iron out the details prior to the grand opening.

The Table Officers for 2020 are set and we will see Greg Ball as our new First Vice-President and the Treasurer and Financial Secretary switching positions.

In Solidarity,

Tim Strachan
Local 15 President/NEB Member

Local 18 Mackenzie, B.C.

Greetings Brothers & Sisters,

There's frost on the ground up here in the north and unfortunately the Canfor Mackenzie site is indefinitely under curtailment. As I write this we have 12 members working

on site doing clean-up, site security and winterizing and it's expected that by the end of October early November that number will be reduced to a few site security. Our section 54 complaint is still in abeyance of the Tolko decision, and we've resolved all but 1 grievance headed to arbitration. The boat is winding down operations as well, with just a few more trips up the lake.

Just recently, Canfor Mackenzie made a major sale of 300 cubic meters of logs to Dunkley, which essentially leaves the yard empty on site, indicating to us that we are not headed back to work anytime soon. How this sale is even allowed to occur is beyond my scope of understanding as to me, it is robbery. We've lost a major portion of our maintenance and skilled tradespeople as well as skilled operators so it is hard to believe that even if the market dictates that Canfor MacKenzie would be profitable and could "turn the key" tomorrow, that it would even be able to.

There needs to be more pressure from the government level on corporations to sustain ethical and economical forestry practices. There needs to be more pressure from us to hold these entities accountable for their actions as well as their complete neglect. Under the current structure, we in Mackenzie as well as numerous other small towns in B.C. will be strangled out of our livelihood, making it impossible to sustain these communities to which these trees and logs are directly linked. I encourage this national to be vocal for not only MacKenzie but all our communities that are facing a literal extinction at the hands and mercy of corporate greed.

In Solidarity,

Paul A Smith
Local 18 1st Vice-President

LOCAL 8 Nanaimo, B.C.

Brothers & Sisters,

Local 8 has had a lot going on lately. We have been feeling the effects of the long drawn out United Steel Workers strike. Two of our certifications are now down due to no available wood to process currently from the strike. The mills are with the same company that Steel Workers are on strike with. The Steel workers have 'Hot Edict' tagged on all wood with Western Forest Products Stamps on it. This has prevented logs from being towed to our mills. With the talks having broken down a few times now and mediation not working, we are not sure how long this will last. It has been since July 1st now with no end in sight.

The forestry sector in our Province is in turmoil right now with many indefinite mill closures. There is a definite fight between the large forest companies and the government with the rules in place on stumpage fees for timber. Private lands are managed differently. As usual, the workers pay the price at the end of the day for the inadequacies of mismanagement. The government recently has produced funding for forestry workers to bridge into early retirement in the Northern areas where

the mills have shutdown. Hopefully these issues will resolve sometime soon so people can get back to work with good paying union jobs.

The recent announcements of Mosaic shutting down woodland operations for market conditions has really put a strain on the system for log and chip supply. This and the Steel Workers strike has affected Local 8. Hopefully things will turn around in the forest industry, as Local 8 and the government are very concerned.

Local 8 Certs:

Harmac Pulp Operations:

Negotiations on a collective agreement at Harmac Pulp Operations have now completed. We bargained an 8-year agreement with matching wages and benefits to the rest of the province in the pulp and paper industry. The membership voted and passed the new agreement.

Western Forest Products Value Added:

There has been a temporary shut down with no wood available to remanufacture. They did manage to open for about 3 weeks as a large order came in where the company purchased wood elsewhere and brought it in to reman.

Ladysmith Sawmill Operations:

The mill is experiencing a temporary shut down with no available wood. The wage committee has started to meet to set up the road map to contract negotiations with Western Forest Products. This isn't going to be an easy road to travel with the company we are bargaining with on strike with the United Steel Workers.

LongHoh:

The mill is coming out of a 2-week maintenance shutdown. So far, they have managed to keep logs in their log yard to manufacture. They are back up and running but with orders slow coming out of Japan, they are concerned about all the finished wood stockpiling in their yard.

ColdStar Solutions:

The plant is running well and safety has been great.

In Solidarity,

Rod Gallant
Local 8 President

**Tell us your story!
Write to your union!**

Articles should be between 250 and 700 words in length. Please submit any relevant graphics with your article

The Communications Officer has a new email.
Please send your articles to:

communications.leaflet@ppwc.ca and COPY
national@ppwc.ca



CCU Celebrates 50th Anniversary Convention!

The Confederation of Canadian Union's 50th Anniversary Convention took place in Ottawa on October 5 to 8, 2019. The CCU held its first convention in July 1969. 50 years later, the CCU celebrated this achievement.

Former CCU Presidents Jane Grant and Jim Streb were the special guests, as well as speakers Katrina Miller of Press Progress, Indigenous activist Michael Etherington, Real Lavergne of Fair Vote Canada, Ontario NDP MPP Joel Harden, Michelle Branigan of Electricity Human Resources Canada, and Tim McSorley of the International Civil Liberties Monitoring Group.

Below is the convention report presented by Leanne Shumka, CCU/CSC Secretary:

Standing on the Shoulders of Giants

As we gather here in Ottawa on the 50th anniversary of the CCU/CSC, I thought it would be appropriate to open our 29th Convention by looking at our foundation. Madeleine Parent, co-founder of the Confederation of Canadian Unions, was a lifelong labour activist, feminist, and passionate advocate for social justice. Parent was born in 1918 into a liberal middle-class family in Montreal. While boarding at the Villa-Maria convent, she became appalled by the difference in treatment received by the girls employed as servants and boarders like herself. "I simply could not accept that," Parent is quoted as saying. She went on to attend the exclusive Trafalgar Academy before going on to McGill University in 1936. Her battle against social injustice began at McGill, fighting for bursaries for low-income students.

As someone who works in financial aid and needed financial aid, I have much respect for this action to create access to education. Madeline Parent was born into a life of privilege, but she chose to use her privilege to help others be treated fairly, rather than for her own gain. If you find yourself feeling guilty because of your privilege, gained or granted, I encourage you to instead do as Madeline did, and use it to help others benefit.

Parent's devotion to union activism and feminist causes was

first exemplified in 1942 during the Second World War, when she organized a strike against Dominion Textile on behalf of the International Ladies Garment Workers Union in Quebec. Commenting on the labour conflict, Parent stated that "The overwhelming majority of striking workers were women, and francophone women. Their interests were being betrayed by the union leadership." This is evidence to what Past-President CCU/CSC Joanie Cameron Pritchett asserts on our webpage: "Madeleine was decades ahead of her time; taking on issues that many politicians and intellectuals – and even some in the labour movement – refused to consider."

It was at this time that Parent began working with Kent Rowley as he was organizing women workers in textile mills. Most union leaders at that time thought it wasn't worth the trouble, so he was rare in his willingness to organize women workers and work with a woman as an equal. In 1946, they won the hard-fought strike against Dominion Textile in Valleyfield, but they would pay a heavy price for their win. Quebec's Premier Maurice Duplessis began a personal vendetta against them. Throughout the 1940s, Duplessis had Parent arrested five times, labelling her a communist agitator. As some of you know well, labelling labour organizers as communists and radicals was a common oppositional tactic used by government during the 1919 Winnipeg General Strike and many other strikes over the late 19th and 20th centuries, whether accurate or not.

After the strike was won, Kent went to jail for six months. In 1947, Parent was charged with seditious conspiracy for her role in organizing Dominion Textile workers and sentenced to two years in prison – a sentence she never served after a new trial was ordered. In the second trial, in 1955, she was acquitted after just 30 minutes of deliberation. At that time, her trial had been the longest in Quebec's history.



Madeleine Parent, Azellus Beaucage and Kent Rowley in the Sheriff's office at St-Jérôme prison, in 1947, when they were arrested

The following excerpt is from the Toronto Star article, Death of an Icon, by Rick Salutin, written in March 2012 at the time of Madeline's passing:

"She became emblematic. Painter Marcelle Ferron called her, 'The greatest figure of our time, the one who did the most to change Quebec.' In a still pious society, she was labelled a slut and whore... During the Cold War, rumours were spread that she was Russian and had been smuggled ashore from a submarine.

She was not just a leader of women; the respect and deference of woodworkers or hard-rock miners when they sought her advice was palpable.

Madeline and Kent fought ceaseless battles with their union headquarters which, like most then, was U.S.-based. When ordered to sign a sellout contract in 1953 they refused, and were expelled. They retreated to a small base of loyal workers and for decades, joined by other small unions with the same bitter experience, fought to build an independent, Canadian labour movement. They argued this case before workers everywhere in Canada. It was an era of labour rhetoric and both could turn around a dire situation on the picket line or in a union hall with the power of their words. They made plenty of enemies. When Kent — a master strategist on and off the picket line — died, people from rival unions came to the “viewing,” probably to verify it was really him in the coffin....

(The story of their romance): They fell in love while Madeleine was married to another organizer who was off at war. (As a Canadian historian, I can tell you that was a very common story during the war years.) Afterward, they all worked together but it “came out” during a strike. Eventually there was a divorce and new marriage in 1953. But almost simultaneously they were fired by their union bosses. Kent moved to Ontario to try to build a presence while Madeleine held on in Quebec. They lived apart for 15 years, then reunited in Ontario.”

Shortly after, these two staunch champions of working people founded the Confederation of Canadian Unions in 1969. During their time in Ontario, they were at the forefront of a number of strikes in the 1970s and 80s. Parent was also a founding member of the National Action Committee on the Status of Women; she fought for equal pay for work of equal value, and championed the interests of Indigenous women. When she met with Past-President Joanie Cameron Pritchett in 2011, less than a year before her passing at age 93, she was thrilled to know that the CCU/CSC continues to strongly represent workers throughout Canada, and maintains the same progressive values she established for the union over forty years ago.

When I look at the organizations and movements we support, as well as the resolution proposals submitted and speakers slated for our 29th Convention, I see those same commitments being maintained and strengthened. We are continually striving to bring in and enhance our Indigenous knowledge and recognition of Indigenous rights, as well as the rights and issues facing other minority groups. We are proposing a commitment to fight to keep public and crown corporations from privatization, which is to the benefit of all Canadians.

Furthermore, we continue to seek advancement by adding new executive officers to the board and maintaining a robust organizing budget to keep our organization growing and active. It brings me great pride and joy to be part of an organization and community such as this. I believe our founders Madeline Parent & Kent Rowley would be proud too, as we stand on the shoulders of giants.

In Solidarity,

Leanne Shumka
CCU/CSC Secretary



Dedicated group of Canadian unionists gathered in Ottawa to celebrate 50 years.



Chuck LeBlanc addresses the floor.



L to R: Larry Walker, Kelly Johnson, Ryan Grier, Tim Strachan, Chris Wipplinger, James Buchan, and Rod Gallant in front of the Madeleine Parent memorial.



NATIONAL OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH & SAFETY OFFICER

Brothers and Sisters,

Here we are heading into the fall and winter is just around the corner. Shorter days bring a myriad of hazards from work to home. We all know that feeling of both going to work and coming home in the dark. With drastic weather changes brings ice and possibly snow depending on where you are. Always be extra cautious with your driving as there are more hazards on the road than usual. The icy conditions at work are even more hazardous.

Walking into your work control room or shop can create more hazards than you're aware of. With snow already approaching in a lot of areas, look for those stations that have salt boxes and take that extra minute to shovel some out onto the walkway for the next person. After all, we are our sisters and brothers keeper. This also brings me back to the saying of 'safety first'.

With recent cutbacks at the National, there have been changes to our events. The WCB Advocacy training was unfortunately cancelled. The Health and Welfare Trust training for the committee's will take place on March 3, 2020 and will be a day training session that we urge the locals to send their committees to this very informative session. We will hold the training for the committees on March 4 & 5, 2020. It will be a very informative 3 days of training.

PPWC Joint Safety Conference Update:

We held our Safety Conference pre-meeting yesterday. We are doing something different this year with the joint part of the conference taking place during the first two days of the week and the PPWC portion being held during the last 3 days. This will encourage people to attend the complete 2 days of the Joint Conference.

The Joint Conference is at the Coast Hotel Coal Harbour Hotel and will take place on February 24th and 25th.

The dates for the PPWC Safety Conference are February 26th to 28th and will be held at the Best Western Chateau Granville. Local 1 will be the host of the conference

We would like to remind everyone to work safe and be kind to all. One never knows what day the other person is having.

Thank you.

In Solidarity,

Rod Gallant

National Occupational Health & Safety Officer

Selkirk College Celebrates Opening of Modern Trades Facility

NELSON – In August 2019, Selkirk College cut the ribbon on its \$23.2 million Silver King Campus Renewal project, opening up a new chapter for the trades-based facility that has trained skilled workers for more than five decades.

The Nelson-based campus first opened in 1964 and when Selkirk College marked its 50th year in 2014, the shop spaces, classrooms and amenities were in need of a serious refresh. The task of modernizing shop spaces and creating learning spaces suited for the coming decades was made possible by \$13.63 million in funding from the Provincial Government, \$5.84 million from the Government of Canada, \$2 million from Selkirk College, and the remainder from industry partners and donors. The construction project provided valuable jobs for tradespeople and injected millions into the local economy.

The project required a tricky balance of completely overhauling the shop spaces while keeping programs running. Students and staff on the campus patiently endured years of construction activity with very little interruption to the schedule. The result is a campus that allows learners in the programs of Carpentry, Millwright/Machinist, Electrical, Plant Operator, Welding, Metal Fabrication, Hairstylist, Fine Woodworking and Heavy Mechanical to have the spaces and equipment to acquire the training they need.

Selkirk College serves more than 10,000 students annually at all its campuses in the West Kootenay and Boundary region of British Columbia with about 500 trades seats at the Silver King Campus. Find out more at selkirk.ca/trades.

In Solidarity,

Rod Fayant, Local 26 President



Pictured Above: Final phase and finishing touches for the renewed Silver King Campus.



Pictured Right: Staff, students, community leaders and senior government officials gathered at the new Student Commons Building on Nelson's Silver King Campus in August 2019 for the official opening of a \$23.2 million project that completely modernized the aging facility.

SALE

PPWC SWAG



Black Hoodie ~~\$35~~
\$18



T-Shirt (Black, Light Grey, V-Neck Light Grey) ~~\$20~~ \$10



Long Sleeve with Buttons (Black, Navy, Dark Grey) ~~\$25~~ \$13



Golf Shirt (Black, Navy, Green) ~~\$30~~
\$15



Black Baseball Hat ~~\$10~~ \$5



Plaid Long Sleeve Shirt \$55



Jacket \$70



Black Hoodie with Round Logo \$60



Black Toque with Cuff \$10



Dark Grey T-Shirt \$20



Dark Grey Long Sleeve Shirt with Round Logo \$25

All items are made in Canada with Canadian union embroidery

If you are interested in purchasing clothing, please contact national@ppwc.ca

Prices exclude shipping costs

From the National Officers,
N.E.B. Members, Locals,
and Staff:

*We wish you a safe
and happy holiday
as well as prosperity
in the New Year!*

PPWC

Public and Private Workers of Canada



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